

Friends, all of you!

We are well into the mid-semester here at University of the Nations in Kona, Hawaii. School and life are full and the days are packed! Some of you have asked about our day-to-day routines...and I'll try and summarize a little of our time here...

**Jindi:**

Aside from teaching and facilitating daily for our class of students Jindi is the finance/treasurer, which means lots of time working out the budget and making sure all the details are arranged. He is also 'unofficially' the class medic, and has been kept busy attending to first aid and giving referrals when necessary. We have had minor concussions, bee stings, sprained ankles, and more...

In our own family Owen broke his hand, which was just deemed fully healed by the orthopedic doctor this week. Kobe lightly sprained his ankle - which continues to trouble him because he constantly forgets not to run around on it, and Miles is all clear so far!

More officially, Jindi is meeting with a team of medical professionals here on campus who are looking to improve health care accessibility and practices that students both receive and are trained in for their volunteer work abroad. There is a team of doctors and nurses collaborating to improve the existing medical model training model and bring in current practices around mental health (i.e. suicide alert training). The team is led by a Canadian physician from Vancouver Island and a team of nurses.

In March during our staff training we had the opportunity to attend different workshops to be trained in specific professional skills, and Jindi attended a full day art therapy workshop. He learned skills to take into his mental health work, and recently co-led an afternoon art therapy workshop for around 30 participants for the first time. It was touching to hear some of the feedback, for example: "I didn't really like art and wasn't excited about the project, but I found myself really enjoying it and learning throughout the process"

**Rebecca:**

I am the main lead on family worship time - which is 75 adults and kids together every tuesday morning. Think chapel time, but more active. We've done songs, skits, object lessons and games. It's fun - and it starts at 7:45am...a great start to the day!

Jindi and I are officially co-leading the volunteer team to Cebu, Philippines this summer, so that means weekly training meetings for both of us from the campus leadership team, with their best practices, long term vision and short term goals. The Kona campus has five different nations in the Global South that they are focusing their volunteer resources and long term community development work in, and the Philippines is one of them. We really feel that we are a small, short term team of professionals joining a long term, established ministry work in Cebu. The

base in Cebu has been operating for almost 30 years and is expanding their work with vulnerable populations to some of the surrounding smaller islands.

After receiving leadership training ourselves, we then 2x week train our own team members to prepare them for our summer of volunteer work in Cebu. Our team members are all professional adults, families with kids much like our own, who have committed to serve for the summer with their professional skill set. It's awesome to see their courage and willingness to step out of their comfort zone!

This month has been travel details: arranging immunizations, coordinating with the campus health clinic for medicals, visa photos and applications, creating a team budget for our summer and co-ordinating with our contacts in Cebu, Pastor Joel and Lucille Hapa.

We also really wanted to connect here in the local Kona community - community development starts in your own neighbourhood! As a family we've been involved in our home community of KW, but we are new here to Kailua-Kona. Through a long term social worker here on campus, we have been able to set up a volunteer commitment with our team of student families and we go weekly to a low income neighbourhood up the mountain and volunteer in an afterschool club run at a local community centre called 'Kona Kids'.

Last month was a first volunteer experience for some of our families and many of their kids. But given that it's a kids club, it was a comfortable place to get started in. We ran games, some songs, b-ball and dodgeball and served a healthy snack. In Kona, the low-income population are mainly Marshallese, former residents of the Marshall Islands who are economic migrants here to the USA and much discrimination exists here towards the Marshallese population by the long-term Hawaiian residents (you can look up USA/Marshall Islands history for more context about this) We are doing our part to serve these kids.

### **Kids' Highlights:**

**Owen, age 12:** For our Hawaiian Studies class we toured a local Kona Coffee farm 'Heavenly Hawaiian' and got to taste test their high-altitude coffee. I didn't like the coffee too much but I really liked the chocolate-covered coffee beans! (My mom thought the parents should go on that field trip) Our class volunteers every tuesday at the Kona Seniors Centre; last week we played Bingo with them and this week we did puzzles together. They really like our jokes. Next week I'm bringing my guitar to play and my friend is going to sing.

**Kobe, age 10:** I like playing with my new friends here, and the playground is really fun, and I like doing serving days on tuesday afternoons. We clean up around campus and colour cards to give away, and then we get to help volunteer in the pre-school class. I love playing with the two and three year olds and we eat good snacks together.

**Miles, age 8:** The best part of my week is when we played Tag last night and I was the last one caught! Homeschool is the same as home (kind of) but the library here has new books, and

when we're done school we get to swim in the pool. I love our hip-hop class and we are learning some new tricks. We found a giant snail under our apartment building and mom said it was creepy!

That's all for now! If you want off our list- please let us know;> If you want to pray for us - we'd love it!

Thank you so much if you have supported us already and if you feel led to support our work in the Philippines this summer - you can donate online to our YWAM Canada staff account for a tax receipt. We are using our personal savings to cover the majority of our travel and volunteer costs, but still need to fundraise some to fill in the gaps. The link is below:

<https://chimp.net/groups/rebecca-corks-cr01>

A warm farewell!

Rebecca & Jindi, Owen, Kobe and Miles Sadhra-Corks